

## Lenten Retreat Reflection

William Schmidt, O.P.

March 7, 2021

Are you Betraying the son of man with a kiss? (Matthew 26:47)

With his questions and looks, Jesus seeks to make one become aware of the horror of the act that Judas is about to do and of the love which yearns to stop him doing it.

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas immediately went up to Jesus and said, "greetings master" and kissed him lovingly. Jesus said to him "get on with the deed for which you have come".

Judas may have from avarice or from disillusionment, wished to see Jesus killed or he may have been trying to force his hand and compel him to act. This could be the most terrible kiss in the world and a betrayal. When Judas said he would point out Jesus with a kiss, the Greek word *philein*, the normal word for a kiss; but when the Gospel author says Judas actually kissed Jesus, the Greek word *kataphilein*, which means to kiss fervently and repeatedly was used. We ask why should Judas do that? It is more likely Judas kissed Jesus as a disciple, and then stood back waiting on Jesus at last to act. He didn't show up for the trial and probably realized the terrible consequences of sin.